

Survey # F-2-99
Stone Walls and Mountain Church Road
Street Address: Mountain Church Road
Town, State: Burkittsville, MD
private X, public X

Approximate date September 14, 1862

This property is included in the survey of resources associated with the Civil War Battle of South Mountain, which occurred on September 14, 1862. This survey form documents the portion of Mountain Church Road extending north from Burkittsville Road for approximately one mile, and the remnants of stone walls along it on both sides. These structures played a direct and primary role in the military action that took place at Crampton's Gap as part of the Battle of South Mountain. The stone walls which parallel Mountain Church Road on both the west and east sides originally delineated the farm fields and kept domestic livestock in. The limestone, which is so prevalent in the fields of Frederick County, was used primarily because of the need to clear the fields of stone for cultivation. The walls which survive today are in good to poor condition. Only small sections of the original walls still stand, approximately 1000 feet of crumbled wall on the east side of the south end of Mt. Church Rd., and approximately 500 feet with several gaps on the west side of the central section of Mt. Church Rd. The road runs along its original path between the old walls exactly as it did in September, 1862. The walls were directly involved in the course of the battle. They provided cover for a thinly spread line of skirmishers from Georgia who opposed the US Army VI Corps, an entire division of which was arrayed on farmland a short distance to the east of the road and the walls protecting the Confederates.

Photo Reference: Photo #

Form Prepared By: Paula S. Reed, PhD and Edith B. Wallace
Woodward-Clyde
200 Orchard Ridge Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Date: February, 1998

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. F-2-99

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Stone Walls and Mountain Church Road

2. Location

street & number Mountain Church Road

☐ not for publication

city, town Burkittsville

☒ vicinity of

congressional district 6

state Maryland

county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district)	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Wall

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Frederick County Roads Department (Multiple owners, see continuation sheet)

street & number Winchester Hall, East Church St. telephone no.:

city, town Frederick state and zip code MD 21701

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse Liber

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street Folio

city, town Frederick state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title National Register Nomination Form, South Mountain Battlefields, F-4-17 A,B,C

date February, 1986 ☒ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state MD

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This survey form documents the portion of Mountain Church Road extending north from Burkittsville Road for approximately one mile, and the remnants of stone walls along it on both sides. These structures played a direct and primary role in the military action that took place at Crampton's Gap as part of the Battle of South Mountain on September 14, 1862.

The stone walls which parallel Mountain Church Road on both the west and east sides originally delineated the farm fields and kept domestic livestock in. The limestone, which is so prevalent in the fields of Frederick County, was used primarily because of the need to clear the fields of stone for cultivation.

The walls which survive today are in good to poor condition. Only small sections of the original walls still stand, approximately 1000 feet of crumbled wall on the east side of the south end of Mt. Church Rd., and approximately 500 feet with several gaps on the west side of the central section of Mt. Church Rd. The road runs along its original path between the old walls exactly as it did in September, 1862 (see maps).

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other(specify)

Specific dates September 14, 1862 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
 and/or
 Applicable Exceptions: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
 Level of Significance: ☒ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Mountain Church Road and the stone walls along it are significant for their association with the Civil War Battle of South Mountain. The walls were directly involved in the course of the battle and the military action that took place on September 14, 1862. They provided cover for a thinly spread line of skirmishers from Georgia who opposed the US Army VI Corps, an entire division of which was arrayed on farmland a short distance to the east of the road and the walls protecting the Confederates.

The discovery on September 13, 1862 of General Robert E. Lee's Special Order #191, the Lost Order, in a field near Frederick where the Confederates had camped precipitated the march of the Army of the Potomac toward South Mountain along the Old National Pike. The turnpike crossed the mountain running west toward the center of Lee's divided army. Had Union commander, George B. McClellan approached the mountain with speed, as he had indicated he would to President Lincoln, the Battle of South Mountain might have ended differently.¹

The Special Order #191 detailed General Lee's deployment of the Army of Northern Virginia in September 1862. In addition to the siege of Harper's Ferry by three divisions under Stonewall Jackson from the west and two divisions under Lafayette McLaws from the northeast, the orders described the location of Robert E. Lee and James Longstreet with two divisions at Hagerstown and D.H.Hill's division, alone at Boonsboro, just below Turner's Gap. With the knowledge of the divided nature of Lee's army on the west side of South Mountain, and the small defensive line at the mountain passes, McClellan felt confident in his army's ability to catch Lee's forces in this vulnerable position. However, McClellan's infamous cautiousness and over-estimation of the size of his opponent, delayed the movement of the Army of the Potomac for half a day. The result of his slow approach to the gaps at South Mountain was to give the Confederate defenders time to reinforce their tenuous positions and begin pulling their divided army together again at Sharpsburg.

General McClellan ordered General Franklin, with the VI Corps to "seize Crampton's Gap and beyond it Rohrersville, a key crossroads in Pleasant Valley [Washington County]. His objective was to 'cut off, destroy or capture'

¹Stephen W. Sears, "Fire on the Mountain," Blue and Gray, December-January, 1986-86, p. 11

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DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

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Franklin's Corps was approximately 12 miles east of Crampton's Gap, and took time to reach the village of Burkittsville at the base of the mountain. When he did arrive, Franklin spent an additional four hours planning his attack. Behind the stone walls along Mountain Church road, were "four thin regiments under Colonel William Parham plus some dismounted cavalry, perhaps a thousand men in all, under the overall direction of Colonel Thomas T. Munford."³ From behind the wall, these Confederates aimed musket fire at Franklin's two divisions, numbering some 12,300 men. Although General McLaws had ordered Howell Cobb's brigade back to Crampton's Gap to help defend it, when he learned of the union approach, they did not arrive for several hours.

The importance of these stone walls in the defense of Crampton's Gap cannot be over-stated. The Confederate force left to defend this gap was small, one battery from Brigadier General Paul Semmes' artillery, three regiments from Brigadier General William Mahone's brigade, and the Second Virginia Cavalry under Colonel Thomas T. Munford. The terrain of the gap and surrounding areas, however, gave them the advantage.⁴

The stone wall which lined the east and west sides of Mountain Church Road was significant to the defense of Crampton's Gap. Colonel Thomas T. Munford reported, "...[I] instructed the officers commanding the two fragments of regiments (infantry) of Mahone's brigade to hold the post at all hazards. I posted the infantry behind a stone wall, at the base of the mountain, and running parallel with it..."⁵ This placement so impressed the Union commanders, they delayed three hours preparing for large assault, fearing greater numbers of Confederate forces. Colonel Joseph J. Bartlett, General Henry Slocum's Division wrote: "I was ordered by General Slocum to halt until he could mass his troops and arrange the plan of the assault, as the appearance of the mountain pass convinced all that artillery was of no avail against it, and that nothing but a combined and vigorous charge of infantry would carry the mountain....My line of skirmishers found the enemy at the base of the mountain, safely lodged behind a strong stone wall. Their entire line, being now developed, exhibited a large force."⁶ Thus the placement behind the stone wall, combined with artillery and sharpshooters further up the mountain, convinced Union commanders of the need for a single overwhelming attack which took hours to organize.⁷ In the words of Major General William Franklin, "The line of battle thus formed, an immediate charge was ordered and most gallantly executed. The men swept forward with a cheer, over the stone wall, dislodging the enemy, and pursuing him up the mountain side..."⁸ Clearly the stone wall at the base of the mountain was central to

³Sears, "Fire," p. 14.

⁴James V. Murfin, *The Gleam of Bayonets*, New York: Thomas Yoseloff, 1965, p.182.

⁵O.R., Vol XIX, Part I, p. 826.

⁶War College Guide, p.79, from O.R., Vol.XIX, Part I, pp.388-89

⁷Stephen W. Sears, *Landscape Turned Red*, New York: Ticknor and Fields, 1983, p.147.

⁸Official Report of Maj. Gen. Wm B. Franklin, from U.S. Army War College Guide to the Battle of Antietam, p. 78.

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the defense of the gap. Within hours of the Federals' clearing of the stone wall, Crampton's Gap was theirs, but not in time to save Harpers Ferry.

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DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

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HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Agricultural-Industrial Transition, A.D. 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Military

Resource Type:

Category: Structure

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Transportation/Road
Wall

Known Design Source: None

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Books

- Hartwig, D. Scott, Civil War Regiments, A Journal of the American Civil War, Vol 5, #3, "Antietam, the Maryland Campaign of 1862". Article entitled "My God, Be Careful! The Morning Battle of Fox's Gap", Savas Publishing Co., Campbell, CA, 1997.
- Luvaas, Jay and Harold W. Nelson eds., The U.S. Army War College Guide to the Battle of Antietam, The Maryland Campaign of 1862, Harper Collins Publishers, Washington, 1987.
- Murfin, James V., The Gleam of Bayonets, The Battle of Antietam and Robert E. Lee's Maryland Campaign, September 1862, Thomas Yoseloff, New York, 1965.
- Roth, Dave, "The General's Tour of South Mountain", Blue & Gray Magazine, Dec-Jan, 1986-87.
- Schildt, John W., The Ninth Corps, At Antietam, Chewsville, Maryland, 1988.
- Sears, Stephen W., "Fire On The Mountain, The Battle of South Mountain September 14, 1862", Blue & Gray Magazine, Dec-Jan, 1986-87.
- Sears, Stephen W., Landscape Turned Red, The Battle of Antietam, Ticknor and Fields, New York, 1983.
- Swinton, William, Army of the Potomac, Smithmark Publisher, New York, 1995.
- U.S. War Department, The War of Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, Vol XIX, Parts I and II, Government Printing Office, Washington, 1880-1901.

Manuscripts

- rye, Dennis, National Register Nomination Form, South Mountain Battlefields F-4-17-A,B,C, 1986.

Maps


- The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War, Plate 27, Gramercy Books, New York, 1983.
- Engineers Maps, 1862, National Register Nomination, South Mountain Battlefields F-4-17-A,B,C, 1986.
- Macombe Map, 1861.


F-2-99


Quadrangle scale 1:24,000


Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References **DO NOT COMPLETE UTM REFERENCES**

B 
Zone Easting Northing

D 

F 

H 

Verbal boundary description and justification

The length of Mt. Church Rd. running from Arnoldtown Rd. south to the Gapland Rd. approximately 1 mile, including stone walls along the east and west sides of the road. Frederick Co. Tax Map #74, parcels 1 and 218.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

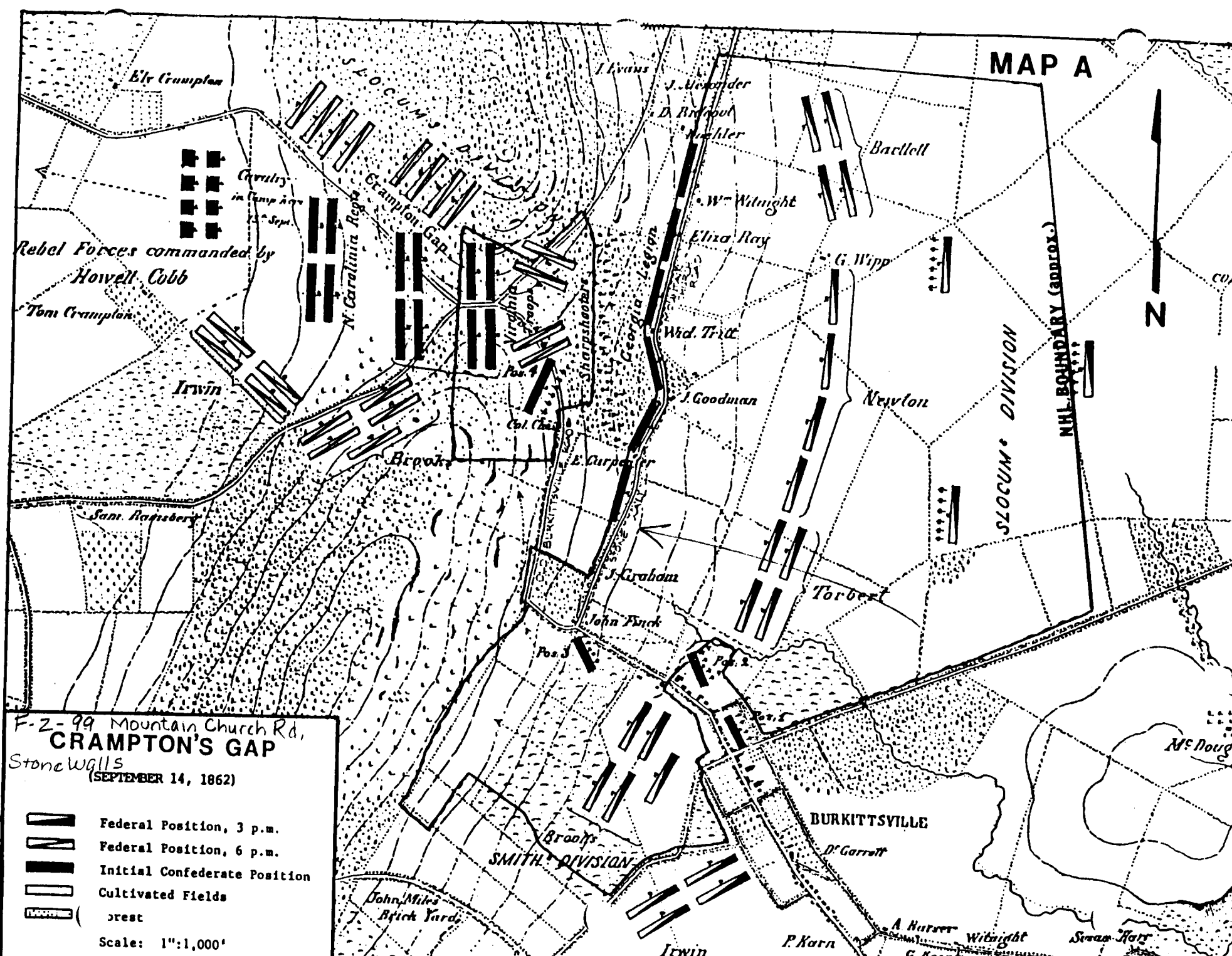
name/title	Paula S. Reed, PhD and Edith B. Wallace	
organization	Woodward-Clyde	date 2/98
street & number	200 Orchard Ridge Drive	telephone 301-739-2070
city or town	Gaithersburg	state MD 20878

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

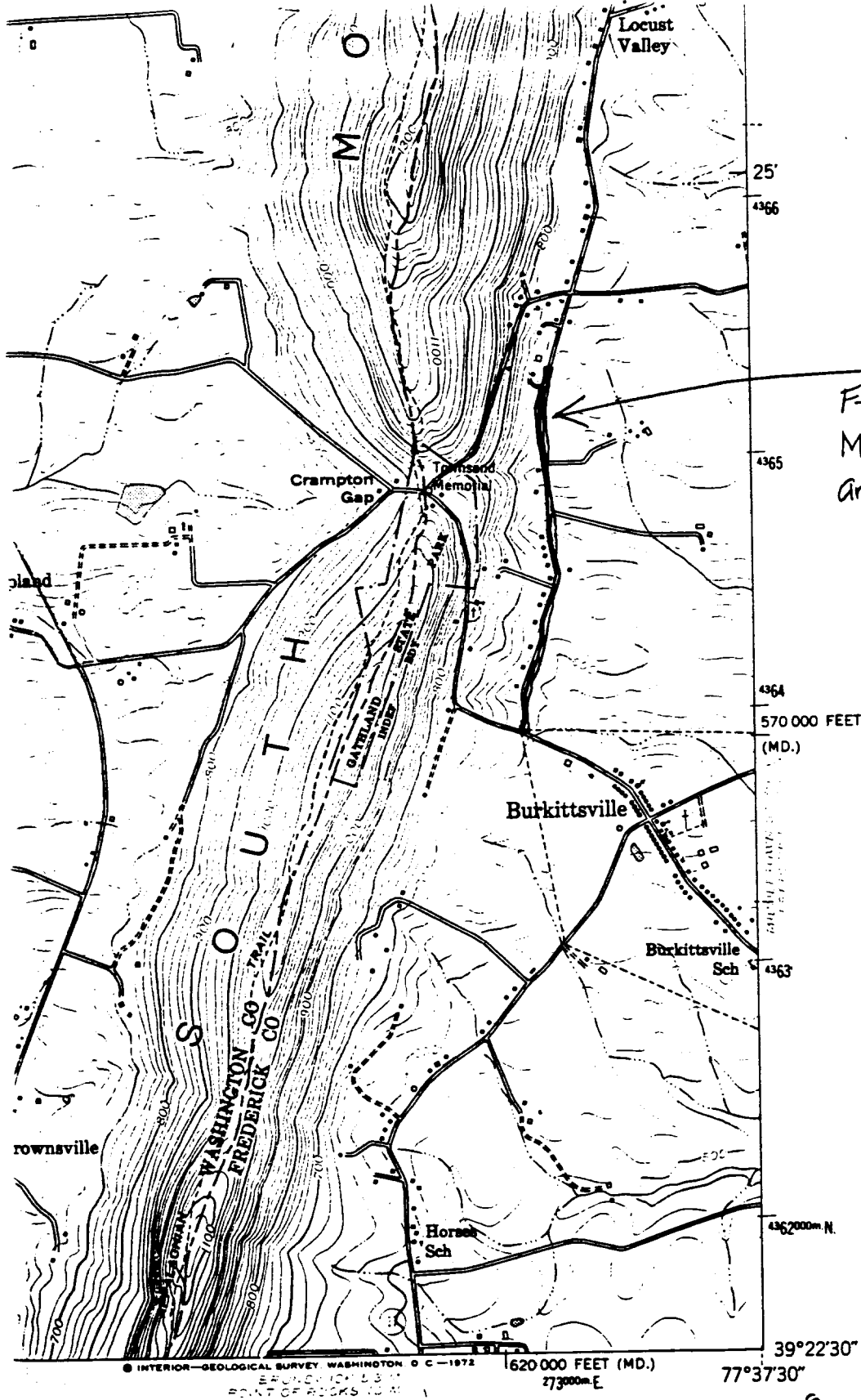
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
People's Resource Center
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7000

MAP A



F-2-99 Mountain Church Rd,
CRAMPTON'S GAP
 Stone Walls
 (SEPTEMBER 14, 1862)



F-2-99
Mountain Church Road
and Stone Walls

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt - - - - -

U. S. Route State Route

KEEDYSVILLE, MD.-W. VA.

N3922.5-W7737.5/7.5



STATE LOCATION

MAN-11



F-3 31

1st 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2

2nd 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2

3rd 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2

4th 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2

5th 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2

6th 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2

7th 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2

1/2



F = 19

Standard

F = 19

Standard

F = 19

Standard

F = 19

Standard

F = 19

Standard

F = 19

Standard



F-2 11

10/11/11

10/11/11 10/11/11

10/11/11 10/11/11

10/11/11

SW from NW corner

10/11/11 10/11/11

10/11/11